

junior ranger activity book



Valley Forge National Historical Park

National Park Service
United States Department of the Interior

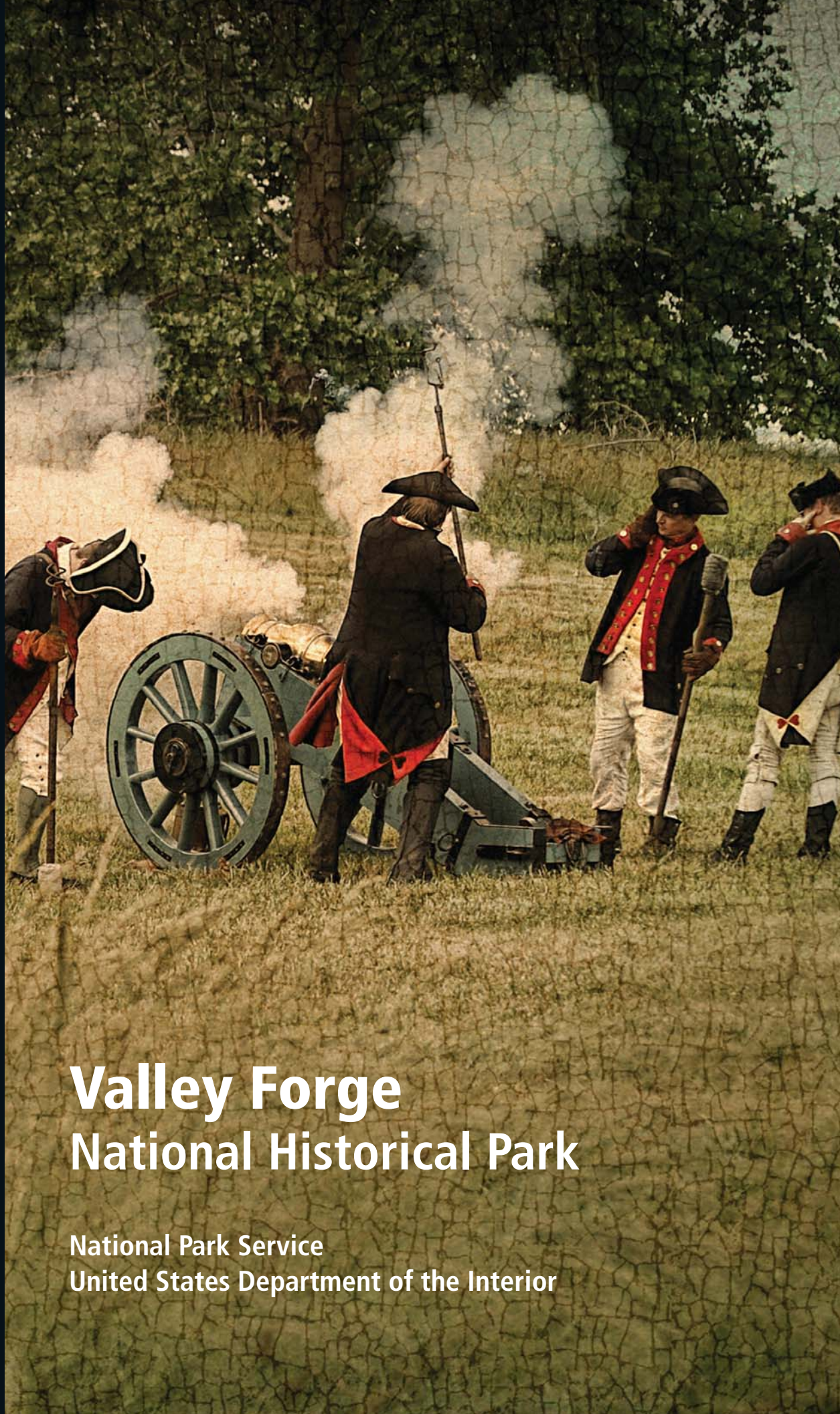


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As you finish activities,
check them off!

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Congratulations on deciding to become a Junior Ranger!

Valley Forge holds many stories. These stories can be told by Park Rangers, or found in buildings, monuments, forests and meadows. To become a Junior Ranger, you must find these stories. This book will help you do that.

How to become a Valley Forge Junior Ranger:

- Step 1:** Get a Junior Ranger Book
- Step 2:** If you are 4-7 years old, complete any three activities
If you are 8-11 years old, complete any four activities
If you are 12 or older, complete any five or more activities
- Step 3:** Bring your book back to the Welcome Center and have a Park Ranger check your work
- Step 4:** Receive your Junior Ranger badge!



welcome to Valley Forge National Historical Park!



You are at a very special place. This place is so special that the United States made it into a National Park. The National Park Service preserves and protects our most important natural, historical, cultural, and recreational areas and provides them for the enjoyment, education and inspiration of present and future generations.

You know you are at a National Park when you see this symbol:



Today there are about 400 National Parks in our country. Some are natural wonders like the Grand Canyon and Yellowstone. Others are battlefields like Gettysburg or Little Bighorn. And then there are historical parks, like Independence and Valley Forge.

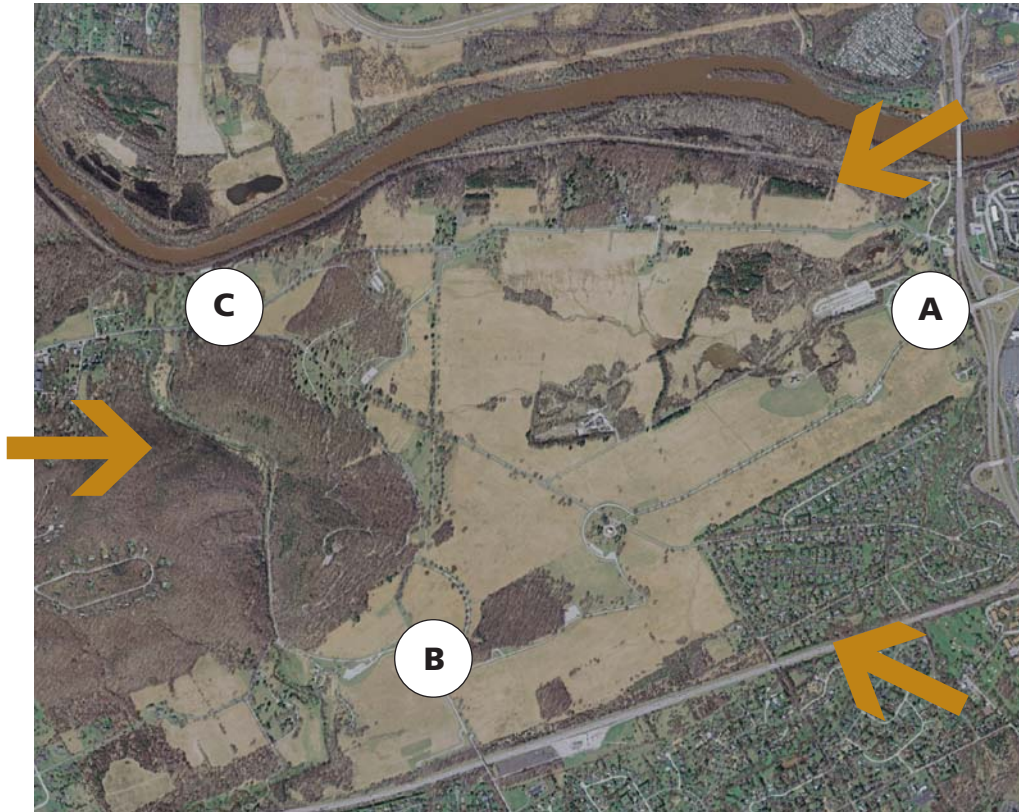
A National Historical Park is created because what happened there is very important to American history. During the Revolutionary War, General George Washington's Continental Army spent six months at Valley Forge. They arrived in December 1777 and made a large camp here. The soldiers were tired, some were ill, and many were poorly clothed and equipped. While they were here, the soldiers went through some very difficult times. There was winter weather, not enough food, and sickness and disease. However, during this time important training also took place, the army reorganized, and France joined the Americans in the war against England. In June 1778, a more unified, organized, and well trained Continental Army marched out of Valley Forge to pursue and eventually defeat the British.

We protect Valley Forge today because it holds this story. As you complete your Junior Ranger book, you will learn more about what happened here and why it is important in our history. You will also learn about the plants and animals that live in the park today or lived here long ago.

Most importantly, have fun, and enjoy your visit to Valley Forge!

Hills and Valleys

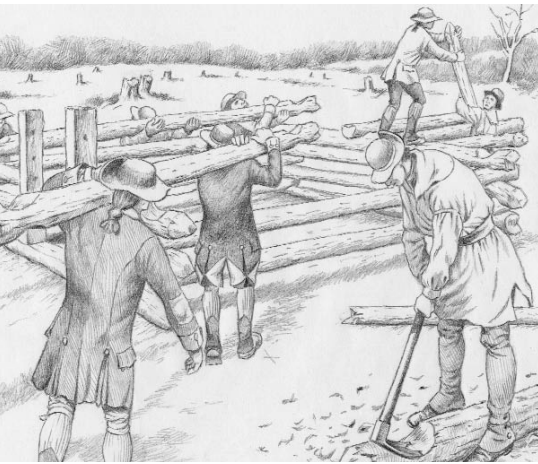
General Washington chose Valley Forge for his army's camp because the hills and the river protected the Americans from a British attack. The Continental soldiers used the hills as lookouts to watch for the enemy, and it would have been difficult for the British to cross the Schuylkill River. To make the camp even safer, Washington's soldiers built small forts (called redoubts) and dug trenches along the main lines of defense.



Use this map to see how the Continental Army took advantage of the natural features of the Valley Forge landscape (such as hills and the river) to defend their camp. The arrows indicate the likely paths of approach for the British.

1. Connect points A, B, and C on the map of Valley Forge above. What shape does this make?
The Continental Army was protected in this " _____ of Defense."
(write shape name here)
2. The lines you have drawn represent lines of defense - where the soldiers built trenches, forts, and cabins. The "Outer Line of Defense" was from point A to point B. The "Inner Line of Defense" was from point B to point C. The line from point C to point A was sometimes called the river defense. **Label these on your map and draw some cabins along the Outer Line of Defense.**
3. Outer Line Drive (see park map) follows the "Outer Line of Defense". As you follow this road from the Welcome Center, what do you notice about the shape of the land, or terrain, that would make this an easy place to defend?

Log City



The soldiers of the Continental Army built over 1,000 cabins, and called them “huts.” Usually 8 to 12 soldiers slept in each hut. The huts kept the soldiers warm and dry. It was much better than sleeping outside on the cold, wet ground. The huts you see today in the park are copies of the huts that were built by the soldiers in 1777-78.

**Visit a hut within the park and look at it carefully.
What materials is it made of?**

As you enjoy the quiet of Valley Forge today, think about what it must have been like in 1777, when the Continental Army arrived. Imagine 12,000 soldiers, camp followers, and thousands of horses busily working here to build huts, keep fires going, and erect forts and defenses. There were so many people and huts here that Valley Forge became the 5th largest city in America at the time. As with many cities today, these activities had a devastating impact on the land.

It took about 80 trees to build each hut. That’s all the wood needed for the walls, the shingles on the roof, the bunks inside, and the chimney.

Calculate how many trees it would take to build all of the huts.

1,000 huts x 80 trees per hut = _____ trees

Trees perform many valuable functions for both nature and man. In the 1700s trees were used by farmers for buildings, fences, firewood and many other activities. In nature, trees not only provide food and a place to live for wildlife, they also help hold the soil in place, and their many leaves help clean the air and provide shade.

Can you think of 4 ways the removal of trees during the encampment may have affected local farmers and wildlife in the area?

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____



Lost and Found

There are many artifacts from the Valley Forge encampment in the museum at the Welcome Center. Each artifact once belonged to somebody. We can figure out what they were used for by studying them, but who their owners were is lost to history.

Help these people from the Valley Forge encampment find the objects they're looking for on the next page!

Hannah is George Washington's cook. She is a slave, and will be with the Continental Army throughout the war, and here at Valley Forge. Today she has to get another dinner on the table for General Washington and his staff. She needs to brew some hot tea and cook meat.

What two objects is Hannah looking for?

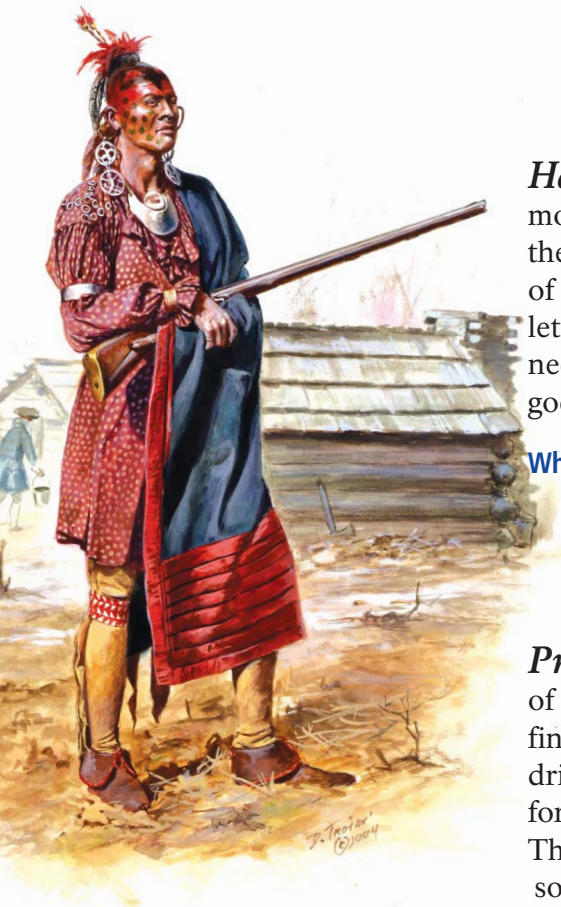


Han Yerry Doxtader is an Oneida Iroquois warrior. Although most of the other Iroquois sided with the British, the Oneida become the United States' first ally. Han Yerry Doxtader is among a handful of Oneida scouts here at Valley Forge. His new friend, Private Martin, let him borrow some overshoes to help keep his moccasins dry. He needs to find the overshoes and return them to his friend before he goes on a scouting mission in the morning.

What is he looking for?

Private Joseph Plumb Martin of the 8th Connecticut Regiment has just finished a tough day of marching and drilling. He and his friends are looking for something fun to do after supper. They might teach their Oneida friends some of their favorite games.

What two objects is Private Martin looking for?



Artifact Bank

Match these objects with their owners on the previous page.

- A. These dice are easy to carry and a simple way to have fun playing with friends.



- B. Pattons were 18th century “mud shoes” that attached underneath another shoe and had an iron base to keep your shoes and feet dry.



- C. This pot has legs and is perfect for heating water over a fire.



- D. Eighteenth century playing cards were very similar to our playing cards today.



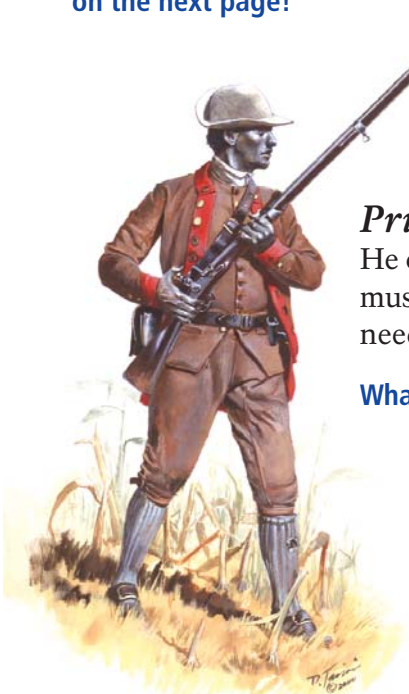
- E. The frying pan also has legs so it can rest over hot coals to cook meat.



lost & found

Lost-and-Found (continued)

Help these people from the Valley Forge encampment find the objects they're looking for on the next page!



Private Salem Poor is a Continental soldier from Massachusetts. He carries a musket, and he must take good care of it. Sometimes the musket gets clogged and dirty from the gunpowder. Private Poor needs a tool that can keep the musket clean.

What is Salem Poor looking for?



General George Washington has had a busy day. After writing several letters, meeting with his staff at headquarters, and then riding through the camp, he is now headed up to the top of Mount Joy to look out towards Philadelphia. He will be looking to see what the British are doing. He needs something that will help him look far into the distance.

What does Washington need?

Mary August is a camp follower. She came to be with her husband, who is in the Continental Army. She can spend time with him and also earn some money by helping with the laundry. She is heading to the market to buy up some extra food for herself and her husband. She must find the Continental dollars the army paid her, and she needs something to put her money in.

What does Mary need?



Artifact Bank

Match these objects with their owners on the previous page.

F. This telescope is used for looking at things far away.



G. This pick-and-brush tool can scrape away gunpowder residue and the brush sweeps away dirt and grime.

H. This two-dollar note was issued by “The United Colonies.”

I. This small leather wallet is used to hold money.

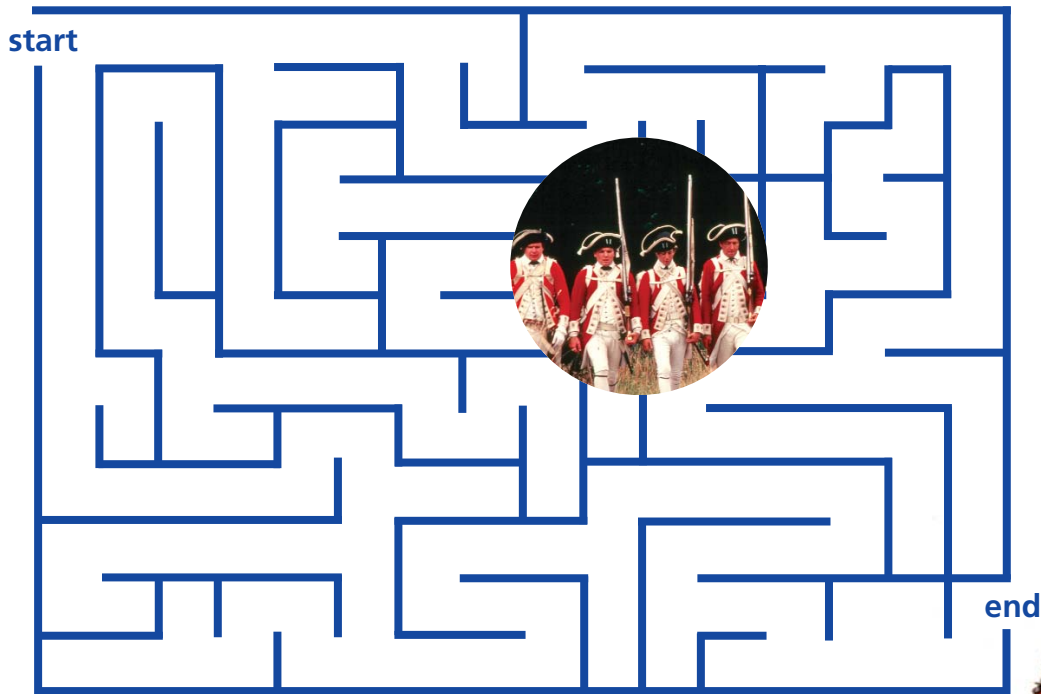


lost & found

Supply Maze

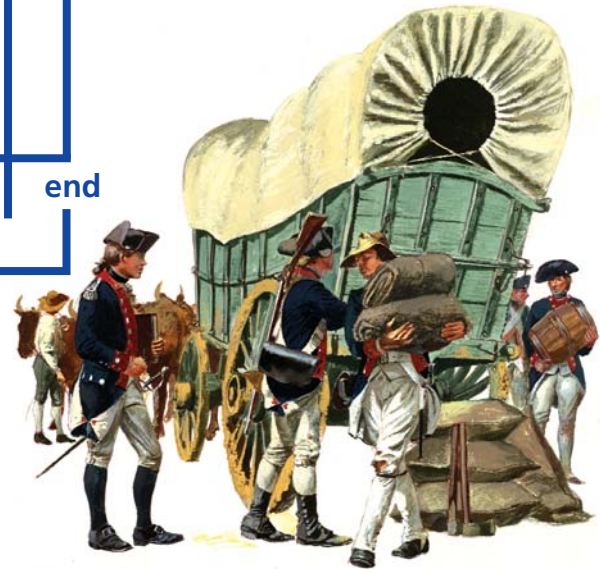
It is hard to get enough food for everyone at Valley Forge. There are thousands of people who need to be fed and that means they need a lot of food. Flour is needed to bake bread at the camp, and the soldiers want meat and vegetables too. These are packed in barrels that have to be brought into the camp on wagons. There were many things that can stop the food from reaching Valley Forge.

Help the supply wagons avoid hazards and get to Valley Forge safely so the soldiers can have more food.



Soldiers at Valley Forge were supposed to be given a loaf of bread and pound of meat each day. They also got rice, peas, and beans. Sometimes soldiers could buy things from farmers' markets.

What kinds of food do you think they bought?



The soldiers did not hunt animals for food very much.

Why do you think this was?

Discipline from a Baron

To defeat the British, the Continental Army had to work together. At first, the soldiers from different states had different ways of marching. This could make things very confusing.

That's why Baron von Steuben of Prussia came to retrain the Continental Army. He knew he had to get the soldiers more organized so they all did things the same way. He wrote the first United States Army drill manual and trained the soldiers almost every day on the Grand Parade. With this new training, the Continental Army improved, and the soldiers became more confident.

Follow the instructions from von Steuben's Drill Manual and learn how to stand like a Continental soldier.



"A soldier is to stand straight and firm upon his legs, with the head turned slightly to the right. The heels of the feet are two inches apart, with the toes pointed out. The belly is drawn in a little, and the chest is projected. The shoulders are kept back and the hands are hanging down to the sides with the palms close to the thighs. The soldier must be silent, stand firm and steady, moving neither hand nor foot, except as ordered."

Shown are two groups of soldiers. One group represents the Continental Army before they went through Baron von Steuben's training. The other group shows what the soldiers looked like after this training.

Write which soldiers you think are BEFORE and AFTER.

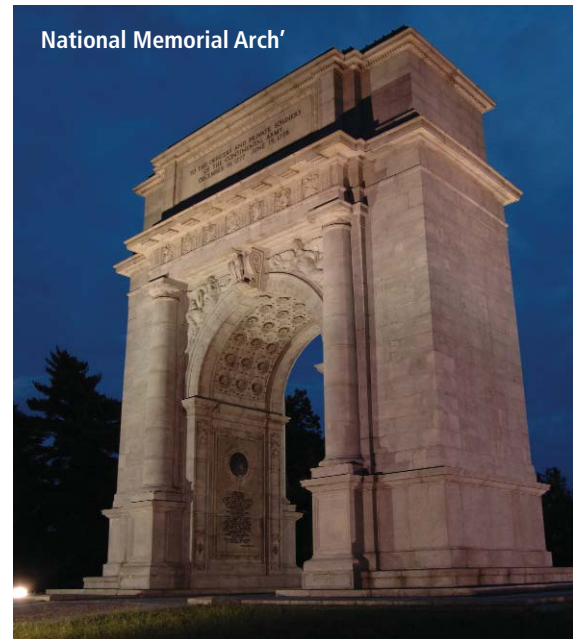


Stories in Stone

The story of what happened at Valley Forge became a symbol for people who wanted to remember the suffering, sacrifice and patriotism of the Continental Army. Throughout history, many groups have made statues, monuments, and even buildings to honor those who were at Valley Forge. This is called **commemoration**.

As you go through the park, you will see many of these statues and monuments.

Choose one and draw it in the space below:



Why do you think this was placed here?

What might it tell us about Valley Forge?

What does it tell us about the people who placed it here?

Valley Forge is famous for the winter encampment of the Continental Army. That lasted six months. The land, however, has a history that is millions of years old! What is on the land has changed over time as the people who lived here have used the land for different purposes.

A. A thick forest covered Valley Forge in the 1600s. During this time you may have seen wolves, turkeys, mountain lions and passenger pigeons among the abundant wildlife in the forest.

B. Early settlers made a living by planting fields of wheat, oats, and hay in the rich valley soils of the Grand Parade. This activity could be observed in the park until the late 1980s.

C. Large quarry pits and some ruins are all that remain of a once bustling industrial past. In the 1700s and 1800s Valley Forge was home to one of the country's largest limestone quarry operations. Industrial operations within the park stopped in the 1970s.

D. Between 1893 and 1976, the state park system created carriage roads along defensive lines, placed monuments to mark brigade and state regiment locations, planted rows of commemorative trees along tour routes, and built replica soldier huts—many of which are still present today.

A Changing Landscape

The following pictures of Valley Forge represent different ways the land has looked over time.

Match the description of the landscape to the pictures.



Draw or describe what you think the Valley Forge landscape will look like 10 years from now.



Home Sweet Habitat

Valley Forge protects a variety of natural habitats that support a great diversity of wildlife. **Habitat** is a word for a place that provides for all the needs of a living creature.

Use the letter bank provided to come up with the 3 things habitats provide that we all need to survive:

f _____, _____ a _____ r, sh _____

Letter Bank

o, l, t, r, e, o, d, w, e, t, e

Common habitats in the park are forests, meadows, and aquatic environments (rivers, streams). You can often tell what kind of habitat you are in by looking at the plants present. The animals you see also provide a clue to your location—living in the habitat to which they are best adapted.

Identify the habitats below as either forest, meadow, or aquatic and briefly describe what you see. Then match the animals on the right to their preferred habitat.



Habitat: _____

What do you see?



A

Grey Squirrel



Habitat: _____

What do you see?



B

Eastern Meadowlark



Habitat: _____

What do you see?



C

American Toad

Oh, Deer!

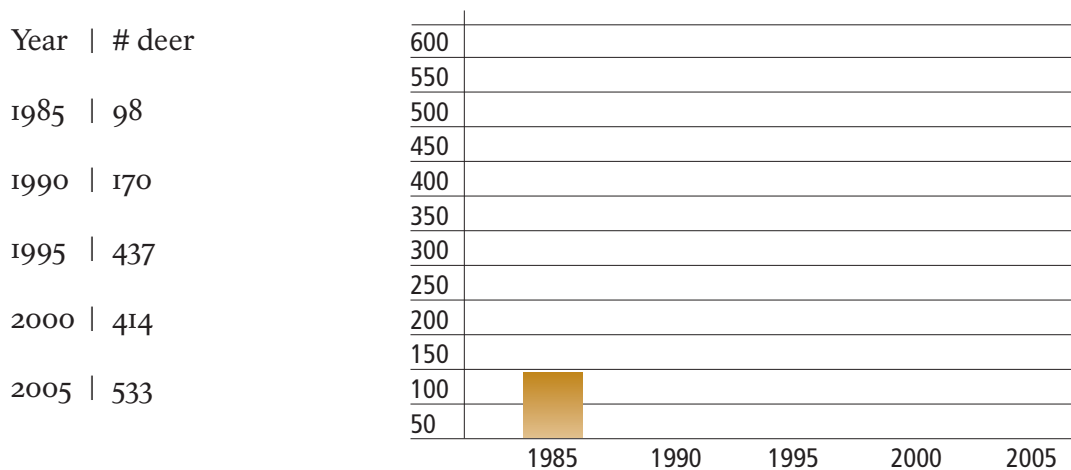
The number of deer within Valley Forge has changed over time. Factors that affect the number of deer in the park include how much habitat is available, how good the habitat is and the number of predators.

Keep count of the number of deer you see during your visit. Use tally marks (|||| = 5) so you can add marks as you see more deer!

Deer Count: _____ Total # Deer Observed: _____

Below are the number of deer observed in the park over 20 years!

Graph the number of deer by year on the chart below to see trends in the deer population size over time—the first year has been done for you!



Is the number of deer increasing or decreasing over time?

Large numbers of deer can damage the health of the forest by eating many of the plants shorter than 6 feet tall, such as shrubs, small trees, wildflowers, and tree seedlings. The presence of a “browse line” (shown left in red) is evidence of this damage. Note the open space below the browse line where shrubs and small trees used to grow.

As you travel through the park, look to see if a browse line is visible in the forests or along the forest edge.

Based on your observations do you think the forests in the park are healthy?

What else might affect the health of park forests (now or in the future)?

Meadow Look and Listen

Tall, bunching, meadow grasses cover over 1,000 acres of land in Valley Forge - one of the largest areas of meadows in southeastern Pennsylvania! Meadows are one of the most threatened habitats in the eastern United States, and as meadows disappear so do the animals that depend on them.

This makes the meadows at Valley Forge very special.



Meadow grasses provide food, shelter, and nesting sites for grassland birds such as the eastern meadowlark. Meadow flowers provide food for over 50 types of butterflies - many of whom are dependent on a single type of plant to survive.

Monarch butterfly caterpillars feed only on milkweed, a common meadow plant. The milky sap of this plant contains a poison which has no effect on the monarch. However, it does make both the caterpillar and the butterfly taste very bad to predators such as birds. The monarch advertises its distasteful nature to those who may want to eat it with bright colors. This defense works so well other butterflies copy the monarch's colors with the hope that predators will avoid them too!



Observe the bright colors of the monarch in the picture above. Now color the butterfly below to warn predators away.

Visit one of the meadows in the park. Quietly look and cup your hands around your ears to listen.

What do you see?

What do you hear?

How does being in the meadow make you feel?



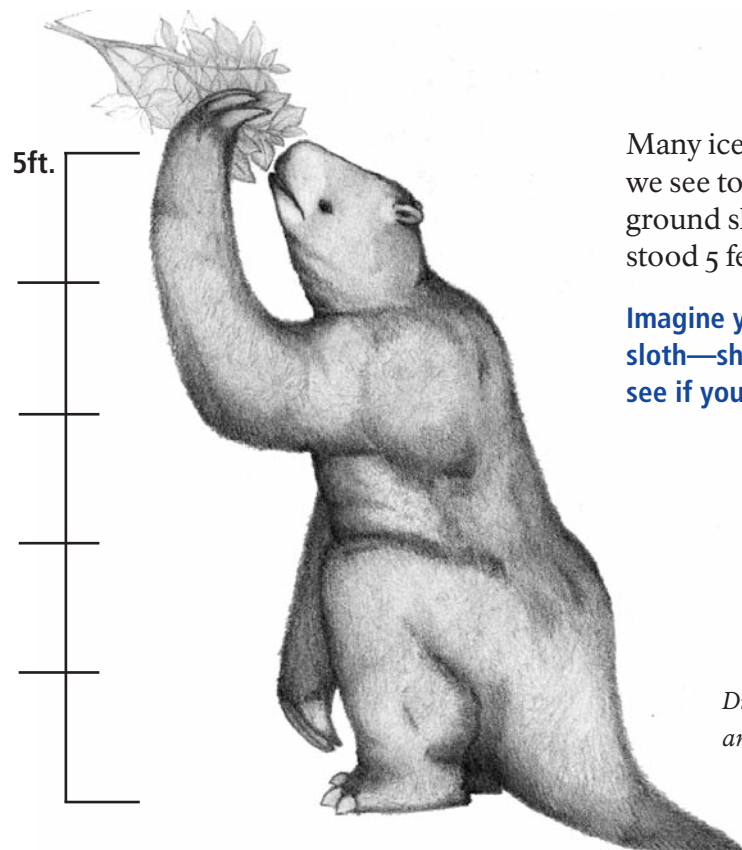
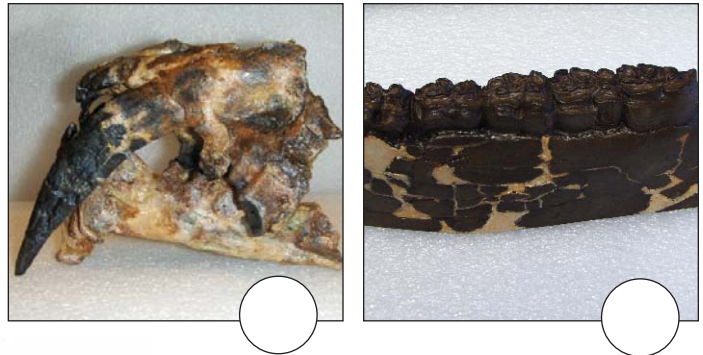
Time Capsule

Did you know that one of the most important fossil deposits of the Great Ice Age in North America was found here in 1870? Fossils are the remains of ancient life preserved in the Earth's crust. At Valley Forge, the "Port Kennedy Bone Cave" was created 750,000 years ago when a large hole in the ground opened up and, over 1,000 years, many animals and plants fell into it and died. Lying in water and covered with mud and silt—14 kinds of plants and 48 animals became *fossilized* as the mud hardened over time around parts such as teeth and bones.

Like time capsules, fossil deposits allow us to look back and tell what the environment was like and what lived here thousands of years ago. The fossils of the Bone Cave tell us that 750,000 years ago the climate at Valley Forge was warm and the land was thickly forested. Animals that roamed here then included the Wheatley's ground sloth, giant horse, saber-toothed cat, American mastodon, and lesser short-faced bear.

Fossils also tell what these animals ate—plants and fruits OR each other! Teeth provide the best clues about whether an animal is an **herbivore (plant-eater)** or **carnivore (meat-eater)**. Herbivores have flat teeth suited to grinding and mashing. Carnivores have sharp pointed teeth called canines—to tear and shred meat.

Can you tell from the Bone Cave fossils which animal is the (A) herbivore and which is the (B) carnivore?



Many ice age animals were much larger than those we see today. Although they ate leaves and fruit, ground sloths could weigh up to 800 pounds and stood 5 feet tall.

Imagine yourself standing next to an ice age ground sloth—show your height on the ruler provided left to see if you would be looking him in the eye.

Did you know that today sloths mainly live in trees and are only two feet tall?

Who's at Valley Forge Today?

It takes many different kinds of people to maintain a National Park. At Valley Forge, there are:

- **Interpretive Park Rangers** who teach us about the history of the park.
- **Law Enforcement Rangers** who keep visitors and the park safe.
- **Natural Resource Rangers** who study and teach us about plants, water, wildlife and other natural resources.
- **Maintenance employees** who keep the park clean, maintain our many buildings, roads and trails, fix our vehicles, and care for the land.
- **Management employees** who deal with policy, planning, and staffing.
- **Cultural Resource employees** who may excavate (dig) archeological sites within the park, preserve artifacts so others can see them, restore historic buildings, or care for historic landscapes.
- **Volunteers** who give their own valuable time, helping in many ways to educate the public and preserve the park.



Draw a line to match the job with the NPS employee.

Maintenance Employee	Leads a historic tour
Management Employee	Mows the grass
Cultural Resource Employee	Counts the deer herd
Natural Resource Ranger	Plans a new trail system
Law Enforcement Ranger	Uncovers an old button
Interpretive Ranger	Rescues a lost person
Volunteer	All of the above

Which type of NPS employee would you like to be?

Color illustrations courtesy National Park Service, Harpers Ferry Center Commissioned Art Collection, artist ©Don Troiani.

Black and white illustrations National Park Service, Harpers Ferry Center Commissioned Art Collection.

Artifacts: courtesy of the George C. Neumann Collection, Valley Forge NHP

Wheatley's ground sloth drawing courtesy of Michael Panno

Monarch butterfly, American toad, eastern meadowlark, grey squirrel and National Memorial Arch photographs courtesy of Bill Moses

This Junior Ranger booklet was funded by the National Park Foundation, national charitable partner of America's National Parks with support from the El Pomar Foundation. The National Park Foundation supports the NPS Junior Ranger program as part of their nationwide effort to connect children to America's heritage and ensure the future of our national parks.

To learn more about the online NPS Junior Ranger program, visit:

www.nps.gov/webangers.





Valley Forge National Historical Park

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www.nps.gov/vafo